

REMARKS

Claims 37-54 are pending in the instant application, of which claims: 37-39, 41-45 and 48 are rejected; 40, 46, and 49-52 are withdrawn from consideration; and claims 53 and 54 are new.

Applicant acknowledges the restriction requirement previously made and elects, without traverse, the invention of Group I. Claims specifically corresponding to that group are 40-44. Claims 37-39, 45, 48, 53, and 54 are generic.

Claim 37 has been rejected under 35 USC §112, ¶2. Applicant has amended this claim to overcome the Examiner's concerns.

Claim 44 has been rejected under 35 USC §112, ¶1. This rejection is traversed as Figure 5 of the instant specification clearly depicts how press blocks such as those embodied in the prior art have been previously stacked end-to-end. This same stacking is applicable to the press block of the invention.

Claims 37 (which Applicant believes the Examiner meant by 35) - 39, 42-45, and 48 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Potters (USP 6,095,826). Additionally, claims 41 and 47 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious in view of Potters. These rejections are traversed.

First, the Examiner should note that Potters is assigned to the same assignee as the instant patent application. Accordingly, under 35 USC §103(c), Potters is not prior art against this patent application under 35 USC §103(a) and the rejections of claims 41 and 47 should be immediately withdrawn for at least this reason.

Concerning the merits of Potters and the § 102(e) rejections of independent claims 37 and 45, referring to Figures 5 and 5a as pointed out by the Examiner, Potters

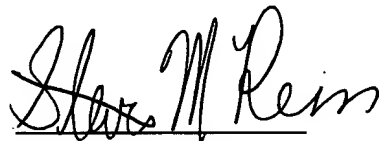
does not show vertically oriented open areas. Rather, he shows a plurality of grid-like passages 44 of equal height and width that are unable to be defined as having a "vertical" orientation. This is different from the claimed invention and therefore the rejection of claim 37 and 45 should be withdrawn.

Concerning the claims dependent from claims 37 and 45, while these claims contain their own allowable subject matter, they should also be allowable at least due to their dependence from allowable claims 37 and 45. Accordingly, to expedite prosecution, no further comment will be made at this time.

Concerning the new claims, it is believed they are allowable for reasons similar to the pending claims.

All claims being allowable, an early indication as such by the Examiner is requested.

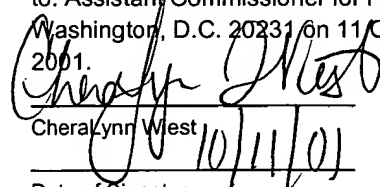
Respectfully Yours,



Steven M. Reiss
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No. 37,519

Docket No. 6185
FCI USA, Inc.
IP Dept.
825 Old Trail Road
Etters, PA 17319
717.938.7514

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 11 October 2001.



Cheryl West

Date of Signature



MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

37. (Once Amended) A press block for inserting a plurality of terminals into a substrate, the press block removably engaging the terminals and comprising:

a generally planar base having a thickness substantially less than a length of the terminals; and

a plurality of discrete openings through said base, said plurality of discrete openings are arranged in a plurality of rows and columns and each said opening adapted to for receive-receiving a respective one of the terminals so that the terminals can extend through said base; and

a plurality of vertically disposed parallel side walls extending from edges of said base and defining at least two vertically oriented open areas between said side walls in communication with said openings in said base, said open areas having a cross sectional area larger than the cross sectional area of said openings in said base.

38. (Once Amended) The press block according to claim 37 wherein:

~~said plurality of discrete openings are arranged in a plurality of rows and columns~~
are also defined by reinforcement and insertion members; and

wherein there is a side wall corresponding to each insertion member and an open area corresponding to each column of discrete openings.

44. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 38, further comprising a second press block, said press blocks stackable end-to-end without a loss of contact position.

45. (Once Amended) A press block for inserting a plurality of terminals into a substrate, the press block removably engaging the terminals and comprising:

a vertical face for receiving the terminals;

a plurality of side walls extending from said front face;

a plurality of vertically oriented open areas between said plurality of side walls and said front face; and

a plurality of openings through said front face in communication with said plurality of open areas;

wherein each of said openings ~~are adapted to receives~~ a corresponding one of said terminals so that the terminals can extend through said openings and reside within said plurality of open areas during insertion.

53. (Newly Added) The press block as recited in claim 45, wherein each of said vertically disposed open areas contains at least two vertically disposed openings.

54. (Newly Added) A press block for inserting a plurality of terminals into a substrate, the press block removably engaging the terminals and comprising:

a vertical face for receiving the terminals;

a plurality of side walls extending from said front face;

a plurality of vertically oriented and unobstructed open areas between said plurality of side walls and said front face; and

a plurality of openings through said front face in communication with said plurality of open areas;

wherein each of said openings ~~are adapted to receive~~s a corresponding one of said terminals so that the terminals can extend through said openings and reside within said plurality of open areas during insertion.